~~40~~. (Amended) The method according to claim ~~39~~, further comprising the steps of preparing a cell extract from the cell transfected with said nucleic acid molecule, isolating a membrane fraction of said cell extract, and contacting said candidate compound with said membrane fraction under conditions permitting binding of the compound to said fraction.

~~41~~. (Amended) The method according to claim ~~39~~, wherein said cell is exposed to said candidate compound, in the presence of a ligand for the CCR5 receptor.

~~42~~. (Amended) The method of claim ~~39~~, further comprising measuring the infectivity of the cell by HIV.

Please **add** claims ~~55-59~~.

~~55~~. The method of claim ~~39~~, further comprising the step of transfecting said cell with said nucleic acid molecule encoding said receptor or said portion thereof so as to provide said transfected cell of step (a).

~~56~~. (New) A method of identifying a compound which binds to a polypeptide sequence comprising one of SEQ ID Nos. 4, 5, or 6, comprising contacting said polypeptide with said candidate compound and detecting binding of said candidate compound to said polypeptide.

~~57~~. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein said compound decreases infectivity by HIV by at least two-fold.

~~58~~. (New) A method for identifying a compound which decreases infectivity of a cell by HIV comprising:

(a) contacting a cell which expresses a polypeptide comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, 5, and 6 with a candidate compound;

(b) contacting the cell with HIV, or a portion thereof; and

(c) measuring infectivity of said cell by said HIV.

~~59~~. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein HIV infectivity is decreased by at least two-fold.

A marked up version of the amended claims is enclosed herewith.